

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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TAMARISK REMOVED AT SOUTH FORK FOR PUBLIC LANDS DAY

In one of the best turnouts for National Public Lands Day for Elko County, fifty-five volunteers spent the day on September 20, 2003 treating tamarisk at the South Fork Recreation Area.

Volunteers included people from Elko and Spring Creek, scouts and leaders from Girl Scout Troop 363, a group of 18 youth with two crew leaders from the Nevada Youth Training Center, and staff from the South Fork State Recreation Area and the BLM Elko Field Office.

While most people cut the tamarisk along the southwest shoreline of the reservoir, a few volunteers helped apply the Garlon-4 herbicide. This was mixed in spray bottles and then applied to the cut stumps of tamarisk. Volunteers donned full safety gear - including chemical resistant gloves, coveralls, boot covers, goggles and respirators. Other than mechanical removal of the entire root system (which is quite labor intensive), use of Garlon-4 is an effective means of killing tamarisk. Tamarisk is an invasive plant that will take over entire areas-- preventing the growth of other vegetation, especially native species. Tamarisk is a state-listed noxious weed.

Following the morning's work, volunteers were treated to a Dutch-oven lunch provided by Elko Interagency Fire Center Supervisor Bill Roach. Volunteers also received t-shirts with the National Public Lands Day logo.

"We had a tremendous turnout," said South Fork Recreation Area Park Supervisor Jim Wilkinson. "The five-acre area that was treated on Public Lands Day leap-frogged into more work accomplished as additional volunteers showed up the next day and we got even more tamarisk cut and treated. We're looking forward to next year."

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